

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

RODGER A. HEATON
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release
April 24, 2006

Contact: Patrick D. Hansen
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217)492-4450

Former Bank Employee Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

Springfield, Illinois -- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a former employee of Illinois National Bank and National City Bank in Springfield entered pleas of guilty today to defrauding the banks of approximately \$93,257. Sentencing for Kathryn S. Lamar, age 48, of Springfield, Illinois, is scheduled for September 18, 2006, before U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott. Lamar was charged in an information filed on April 4, 2006.

During today's court appearance, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore, Lamar admitted that she defrauded Illinois National Bank of approximately \$50,694.64 while she was employed there, from July 1, 1999 through May 25, 2005. Prior to working at Illinois National Bank, Lamar was employed at National City Bank. She admitted defrauding National City Bank of approximately \$42,563.39 between April 21, 1997 and February 9, 2000.

Lamar admitted that she used her position and authority at the banks to approve cash withdrawals, checks, cashier's checks, and account "debit memos" to take money from one or more accounts and credit the money to her own accounts, to cover cashier's checks for her own expenses and to make payment for her personal expenses with the banks' and customers' money.

Bank fraud carries a maximum possible penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$1 million. The defendant may also be ordered to pay restitution to the victims.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick D. Hansen.

####